



Advent Calendar

December
2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 First Sunday of Advent Make a resolution at the start of this liturgical year that will bring you closer to Christ.</p>	<p>2 In today's Gospel, the centurion says, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof." Make reading the daily Mass readings a part of your Advent this year.</p>	<p>3 Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest In honor of St. Francis Xavier, one of the first Jesuits, try the practice of the Daily Examen.</p>	<p>4 In today's Gospel we hear the miracle of the seven loaves and fishes. During a cold Advent season, your time and financial contributions can be vital to a food pantry or soup kitchen in your community.</p>	<p>5 A Jesse Tree depicts the relationship of Jesus with Jesse and other biblical figures who were ancestors of Jesus. Start with a branch in a large pot and add a new ornament each day to represent individuals or stories from the Bible.</p>	<p>6 On this feast day of St. Nicholas, purchase a gift to be donated to the poor. St. Nicholas was known for abundant generosity to the poor.</p>	<p>7 Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church St. Ambrose is the patron saint of catechumens. Take time to pray for those seeking to join the Church today.</p>
<p>8 Second Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist proclaiming in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord." Reflect on ways you can do more to evangelize this season.</p>	<p>9 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." On this great feast, reflect on how God is calling you to serve him.</p>	<p>10 As Jesus reminds us in the Gospel today, the Lord our God is seeking his lost sheep. Go to confession this season and enjoy Christmas with a clean heart and a peaceful soul, thanks to God's mercy.</p>	<p>11 Take time today to bless the family crèche. (Based on your family's tradition, you may choose to hide the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.)</p>	<p>12 On her feast day, pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe, that she may help us never see others as burdens, especially migrants to our country and communities.</p>	<p>13 Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr In honor of St. Lucy, Sweden celebrates a festival of lights on this day. Do some research on an Advent tradition that is native to your heritage today.</p>	<p>14 Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church There are 10 days left in Advent. In honor of a saint known for his deep spirituality and compassion, reflect honestly on your own spiritual journey this season so far.</p>
<p>15 Third Sunday in Advent Today is Gaudete Sunday, the day when we shift our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." Rejoice! We are more than halfway to Christmas Day!</p>	<p>16 Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. Pray for migrants currently seeking shelter around the world.</p>	<p>17 Today, begin adding the O Antiphons to your daily prayer until Christmas Day.</p>	<p>18 We are reminded in Advent that Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus were refugees. Learn more about how you can support migrants and refugees here in the U.S. by getting involved in the USCCB's C.A.R.E. program.</p>	<p>19 In today's Gospel, we learn of Elizabeth's miraculous conception of her son John. Say a prayer for life with your family today.</p>	<p>20 Make this Friday night a family movie night, and watch a Christmas classic together.</p>	<p>21 We learn in today's Gospel that Mary spent three months with her kinswoman Elizabeth before returning home. How will you invite family and friends into your home this Christmas season?</p>
<p>22 Fourth Sunday in Advent On this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, light the fourth candle on your Advent Wreath and spend extra time in prayer as a family prior to your evening meal.</p>	<p>23 According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, or the Feast of the Presentation. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.</p>	<p>24 Depending on when you attend Mass to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, the Scripture read will be different. Spend time reading these four excerpts from the Gospels today.</p>	<p>25 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, / AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL, which means 'God is with us.'" (Mt 1:23)</p>			